



# NEWS RELEASE

ARIZONA SUPREME COURT

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

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***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***

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## **Barbara Polk and Yavapai County Juvenile Court Honored with Arizona Supreme Court Achievement Awards**

PHOENIX, Prescott's own Barbara Polk was recognized for her dedicated service to justice in Arizona. At the Arizona Supreme Court Achievement Awards program, Polk was awarded with the Chief Justice's Outstanding Contribution to the Courts Award. In bestowing the court's highest honor, Arizona Supreme Court Chief Justice Thomas Zlaket stated that, "Barbara Polk's outstanding contribution to the courts resulted in meeting the challenges of improving public trust and confidence in the courts; improving judicial administration; and, supporting the strategic initiatives of Justice 2002."

Chief Justice Zlaket also listed some of Polk's achievements with the courts including serving as an original Foster Care Review Board (FCRB) member and one of the first chairs of the state FCRB; participating as an active member of the Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Program and receiving the National CASA of the Year Award; being a founding member of the National Association of Foster Care Reviewers and the Arizona Friends of Foster Care Foundation; and, through her valued involvement in the Appellate Court Nominating Commission as well as numerous community and special court projects.

Also receiving an award at the program was the Yavapai County Juvenile Court, which was recognized for their efforts in Protecting Children, Families and Communities. This award is given for contributions in helping courts protect Arizona's children, families and communities by providing them with an independent, neutral forum for resolving disputes; dispensing justice in a fair and equitable manner; improving how children and families are served in issues of family law; ensuring that juvenile detention facilities are available, safe and secure; and, by delivering probation services, providing public protection and offender accountability.

In presenting the award, Chief Justice Zlaket noted that in 1997/1998, Yavapai County went from three cases of juvenile sex crimes to 50. The Yavapai County Juvenile Court responded with Sex Offender Court, a court review process combining strict supervision, accountability and comprehensive therapy to address the issue. (Photos of the recipients receiving their awards are attached.)

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Arizona Supreme Court Chief Justice Thomas Zlaket bestows the court's highest honor, the Chief Justice's Outstanding Contribution to the Courts Award, to Barbara Polk.



Arizona Supreme Court Chief Justice Thomas Zlaket (far right) with the Protecting Children, Families, and Communities award recipients of Yavapai County Juvenile Court (from left: Judge Robert Brutinel, Paul Medlyn, Gordon Glau and Chief Justice Zlaket).

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